

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-10 and 12-16 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 4, 10, and 14 have been amended to overcome the issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. No new matter has been added. Based upon the above considerations, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the reference supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 7, 2011 and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-SB08 form filed therewith.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 1-10 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the limitation “wherein the inside of the catalyst is a site of reaction for producing said tertiary amine” in claim 1 and the limitation “reacting an alcohol with a primary or secondary amine inside a film-type catalyst” in claim 10 are not supported by the present specification. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Paragraph [0026] of the printed publication of the present specification provides sufficient support for the limitations. Specifically, paragraph [0026] states:

The process of transferring the reactants and the product in the inside of the catalyst is governed by diffusion, and the distance is reduced to 500 μm or less, whereby the mass transfer between the inside and outside of the catalyst can be promoted thereby effectively utilizing the whole of the catalyst and simultaneously suppressing the excessive reaction of the intermediate reaction product in the inside of the catalyst.

Since the present specification states that the process of transferring the reactants and the product occurs on the inside of the catalyst, the limitations in claims 1 and 10 are properly supported. For this reason, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-10 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

First, the Examiner asserts that claims 1 and 10 recite the limitation “the diffusion rate” without proper antecedent basis. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended herein to recite “a diffusion rate.”

Second, the Examiner asserts claims 1 and 10 recite the limitations “in the catalyst” and “of the catalyst” without proper antecedent basis. The Examiner is unclear as to whether “the catalyst” refers to “film-type catalyst” or “catalyst particles.” The term refers to the film-type catalyst, and the claims have been amended accordingly.

Third, the Examiner notes that claims 1 and 10 recite “on a substrate” and that claims 4 and 14 recite “on the surface of a substrate.” The Examiner asserts that it is not clear if these limitations refer to the same substrate. The limitations do refer to the same substrate, and claims 4 and 14 have been amended herein to recite “the substrate.”

In view of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

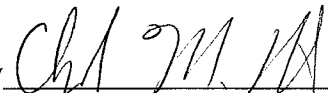
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad M. Rink, Registration No. 58,258, at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Dated: OCT 27 2011

Respectfully submitted,

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